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**State of Vermont**  
**Vermont Department of Education**  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

TO: Superintendents, Principals, School Board Members, Business Managers & Facilities Managers

FROM: Arlyn Bruccoli, Peter Drescher

SUBJ: **Learning Network of Vermont (LNV) Upgrade**

DATE: July 29, 2009

The Learning Network of Vermont (LNV) is a school-based video-conferencing system. The LNV supports school-to-school collaborations, virtual field trips, distance learning opportunities, and access to meetings/trainings for staff members. The LNV upgrade of August 2009 brings increased capacity and stability of the video conferencing network for participating schools. The upgrade is twofold:

1. Hardware updates the head-end infrastructure in Montpelier in the following ways:
  - a. a firewall traversal system,
  - b. a presentation desktop suite,
  - c. capacity to support Web cams within the system.
2. Provision of new Polycom hardware (e.g., cameras, monitors) for participating LNV sites using cameras from the previous ILN system

The new equipment in Montpelier will obviate the need to do any configuration on the local school's firewall -- the school's camera will communicate with the head-end to make all firewall traversal automatic. The LNV will be offline for the month of August while these changes are implemented.

While Title IID funds are being used to complete this upgrade, those funds have a limitation. In this first phase, priority is being given to schools that have been active on the system over the past two years. While the desire to replace all cameras from the old ILN system is considerable, the first phase of this will focus on those schools that have been active. A possible second phase may address those schools with older cameras and a desire to take part in the LNV activities. The old cameras from the ILN (older model Polycoms) will no longer be supported by the LNV system after September 1, 2009.

The LNV system is supported via Title IID funds. Technical support is provided by Northeast Computer Systems in Lyndonville, VT. Northeast Computer Systems staff also facilitates the educational use of the system via logistical support and managing instructional resources such as the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration content dollar bank (<http://www.cilc.org>). The Vermont Department of Education provides pedagogical and additional logistical support to schools participating in the LNV.

Schools on LNV have:

- A video-conferencing camera and associated monitor
- Access to the Scopia Desktop, which allows for the real-time sharing of presentations and documents to remote locations.
- Access to meeting scheduling software that allows for users to schedule video conferencing connections with remote locations
- Access to funds banked with the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration. These funds support highly interactive live virtual field trips from over 200 content providers.

### Who uses it and for what?

During the 2008/2009 school year schools in Vermont used the LNV to participate in a variety of student centered experiences as well as meetings for school and district staff. The following list of sessions is included to provide an example of student uses and does not cover the full range of sessions for which the LNV was used (note that schools incurred no costs for any of the sessions listed).

Topic/Program Title	Provider	Grade Level of Vermont Participants
Spanish Art	Cleveland Museum of Art	HS Spanish I through III
Meet the Medieval Peasant	The Sheffield Museum of Rural Life (Canada)	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Our Solar Neighborhood	NASA	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
Internet Safety for Students	RoundTrips	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade students, teachers
Penguin and Puffin Coast Virtual Tour	Saint Louis Zoo	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
The Fine Art of Persuasion: Television and Advertising	Paley Center for Media Arts	High School
American Indians in a Changing World	Milwaukee Public Museum	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
The Griot's Drum	Storyteller's Drum, Inc	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade
States Of Matter: A Solid Lesson Where Liquids can be a Gas	Cleveland Museum of Natural History	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Grades
Sanctuary via Kindertransport ( <i>presenter is a Jewish man who was evacuated as a child from Germany without his family</i> )	Vanderbilt University	High School

In addition to the above noted content provider programs, Vermont students collaborated with students in other states. Collaborations included social studies and literature discussions.

### What does it mean to be a LNV site?

It is the understanding of the department that in participating in the Learning Network of VT schools will have the following staff resources in place:

- Technical contact person responsible for the school's hardware
- School contact person for information about instructional resources (e.g., will understand the educational uses of the LNV, be primary educational contact, and point person for camera availability).

*The school contact will be notified about the current allotment of the CILC content dollar bank funds, information about trainings, etc. This person will also understand the instructional application and be able to use the video conferencing camera and remote, shared desktop server, and scheduling features of the LNV (either via a face to face training or the Web-based training materials). The school contact person can be a technical contact, but can also be a classroom teacher.*

In addition to facilitating communication and collaboration across Vermont schools, the LNV also allows for the inclusion of cameras outside our network. The new LNV also has the capacity to integrate Web cams into the network. Any Vermont school may apply to connect a Web cam to the LNV system. Details for this will be forthcoming in Fall 2009.

Please see <http://www.learn.vermont.gov> for more information about the LNV or contact Arlyn Brucoli at (802) 828-0223 or [arlyn.brucoli@state.vt.us](mailto:arlyn.brucoli@state.vt.us); Peter Drescher at (802) 828-5149 or [peter.drescher@state.vt.us](mailto:peter.drescher@state.vt.us) with questions or information about staff contacts.